

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL
RECOGNITION OF DUBLIN VETERANS KIA
Wednesday, January 2, 2013
5:00 p.m. – Council Chambers**

Minutes of Meeting

Mr. Gerber, Chair called the meeting to order with Committee members Keenan and Reiner present.

Staff members present: Mr. Hahn and Ms. Ott

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gerber moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 18, 2012.

Mr. Reiner seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Review and Discussion of Options for Columbarium

Mr. Hahn stated that early in the process, the concept of incorporating a columbarium into the memorial was suggested. At this time, some options have been identified: 1) a traditional columbarium on the back side of the monument, which could provide about 10 niches; 2) allowing for cremains to be buried under the plaza itself; and 3) in this process, the City will acquire three grave spaces adjacent to the site that will not be part of this memorial. No one really knows whether or not a columbarium would ever be utilized, but these are three options for consideration.

Mr. Gerber asked if there are legal requirements for the amount of space between each urn.

Mr. Hahn responded there are not. The City has an established cemetery policy that provides up to two urns per gravesite, or one full body plus one set of cremains per gravesite.

Mr. Keenan stated that it appears the traditional columbarium might be an expensive option, given that it may not be used. Of the two other options, what is staff's recommendation?

Mr. Hahn responded that he would recommend waiting to determine if there is a need for this, and at that time, the City would have the three grave spaces available. The plaza itself could be used at any point in time for this purpose. So his recommendation would be not to pursue an actual dedicated columbarium on the back side of the monument. It is not an issue of the expense, but the fact that the need can be met in other ways as described.

Mr. Gerber asked Mr. Hahn to more fully describe the remaining two options.

Mr. Hahn stated that the monument itself will have a formalized plaza area. In churches and other areas, burials are sometimes done under the floor. This is a similar concept. It would be relatively easy to "pop" pavers to allow for burial of cremains and to then replace the pavers and add an appropriate plaque. (An example of this is shown in the photo provided to the Committee.)

The other option would be to utilize the three grave spaces (secured from the American Legion) for burial of such cremains. These are not part of the plaza area, but are in the same general area. The plaza area is very symmetrical and these are outside that actual paver area, but immediately adjacent to the paver area.

Mr. Reiner asked if it is possible to accommodate all of the names on the memorial as designed.

Mr. Hahn responded affirmatively, noting that is another topic for discussion later in the meeting.

Mr. Reiner asked if staff has an estimate of what percentage needs to be available for future use for engraving of names.

Mr. Hahn responded that the wing walls on the memorial will accommodate all of the names that are known at this time, and in fact, there appears to be too much space available on these walls.

Mr. Gerber stated that if the Committee wants to pursue the option of burial of cremains in the plaza, there would still be a future option for using the three grave spaces if needed, correct?

Mr. Hahn responded that is correct. These possibilities remain open, regardless of what is the preferred option identified at this time. A traditional columbarium on the site, burials on adjacent graves, or utilizing the area under the pavers would all continue to be possible.

Mr. Gerber stated that his only concern would be that this memorial be simply stated and consistent over time. Typically, when honoring veterans, there is a consistent approach over time in terms of the design. He would not want to see drastic changes made in the future.

Mr. Hahn responded there is a line drawing of a traditional columbarium that would be part of this record. Between the minutes and the files, it would be clear that was the intent.

Mr. Reiner asked for clarification about the description of two inch basalt pavers. Mr. Hahn responded that those would be bedded in a bituminous lift, and under that would be four inches of concrete slab. The pavers will therefore have good integrity in terms of no danger of shifting and no voids. This same design has been used in Historic Dublin with bricks, and there has been need to "pop" some

of the bricks embedded in bituminous material. Staff has had good experience with these. These are set in an inch thick of aggregate free bituminous, with four inches of concrete underneath.

Mr. Reiner stated that under this scenario, the paver would be popped out, excavated through the bituminous mix, and the concrete would then be saw cut to accommodate burial of the urn.

Mr. Hahn responded it is more of a ragged hole poked through to accommodate the urn in the four-inch concrete, as there is not concern with the finish at that point. All of this would be backfilled with the same cross-section put in at the outset.

Mr. Reiner suggested that the concrete instead be core drilled, which would result in "lips" to set the two-inch paver, holding it together.

Mr. Hahn stated that the point is that perfection of the hole through the concrete is not necessary, as it will be covered again and properly sealed.

Mr. Reiner asked if specifications will be provided for the urns so they can be of a size to drop through the pavers.

Mr. Hahn responded they would not do this, but the niches will be of a depth to accommodate them.

Mr. Keenan stated that the urns essentially go into the ground underneath the concrete.

Mr. Reiner stated that there would be compacted gravel underneath as well.

Mr. Hahn added that even with this extreme paver detail being utilized, it will be possible to install the urns under the pavers.

Mr. Reiner stated that the reason he suggests core drilling is that if a standard four-inch paver with a base under it is used, the bricks could be easily pulled and the grave assembled and sealed quickly. The system being suggested is somewhat more complicated.

Mr. Hahn stated that if staff envisioned frequent burials of urns, they might rethink utilizing such a heavy design.

Mr. Gerber stated that information about this memorial is now being circulated. Is this intended for KIAs who die in the future, or is this for KIAs whose remains may currently be at family homes and the family now desires to have them at this memorial. This is a consideration.

Ms. Ott responded that it is Council's decision about who is eligible to be buried in this KIA memorial. By reaching out to the community, staff has confirmed 13 KIAs and likely another six to be included. In addition, there is a long list of WWII veterans in Franklin County, but no other detail is available.

Mr. Gerber stated that he recalls that Council adopted the Committee's recommendation of what qualifies one to be included in the Dublin KIA memorial. Ms. Ott responded that staff would want to notate on the policy that it is also for the burial of the KIA -- not just for the KIA name on the memorial wall. This clarification needs to be made to the policy adopted by Council, as this question will arise.

Mr. Keenan asked what the policy indicates in terms of geographic eligibility for notation on the wall.

Ms. Ott responded it indicates City of Dublin and Washington Township, and certain records can be used to corroborate this, such as Dublin City School records. In terms of eligibility, it is clearer going forward, than looking back in the past.

Mr. Keenan stated that moving a grave is a significant undertaking, based on his past township experience.

Mr. Gerber stated that his understanding was that the City would have the same definition or policy with respect to the names on the wall and for access to the columbarium.

Mr. Hahn agreed.

Ms. Ott stated that this will be clarified in the policy for the future.

Mr. Keenan asked that the minutes reflect this clarification. He noted that he believes there needs to be availability for interment of the remains immediately.

Mr. Hahn responded that once this is completed, this can be accommodated immediately.

Ms. Ott added that there are also three vacant grave spaces immediately around it, as well as the space under the pavers. Staff would need to determine the appropriate spacing of the pavers, once the design is completed.

Mr. Hahn agreed that there will be some number of burials that can be accommodated from the outset.

Mr. Gerber stated that, assuming the criteria are met, the Committee has no objection to this.

Mr. Reiner stated he spoke to Captain Rozanski's widow about planting a tree in her yard to honor him. Is there space behind this monument for two trees?

Mr. Hahn responded that there is not space in that immediate area for two trees. However, the trees could be accommodated within the cemetery.

Ms. Ott clarified that Mr. Reiner's company has offered to plant trees in memory of Captain Rozanski and Lance Corporal Wesley Davids.

Mr. Gerber noted that Council has also agreed to recognize Captain Rozanski at the Avery Park soccer fields.

Review of Monument Design

Mr. Hahn stated that earlier in this meeting, Mr. Reiner asked if staff was confident that there is adequate space on the monument to accommodate the names. Under the design being pursued, each of the side panels would accommodate about 20 names. At this point, staff's estimate is there are about 20 names in total to be inscribed. The concern is with how to temporarily fill the empty space – perhaps with an appropriate quote or inscription on both panels. The space would remain available for the future, but this inscription would enhance the appearance of the bare granite on the wing walls. The Committee members agreed that it would be appropriate to do so.

Mr. Reiner suggested that other brass inserts such as military wreaths could be affixed to the front of the granite as an interim measure. They would lend a three-dimensional appearance to the monument.

Ms. Ott stated that staff will provide some examples of how this space can be handled.

Mr. Hahn stated that at the first meeting of this Committee, one member suggested the concept of an eternal flame. It was recognized that this could be problematic to maintain, and so the idea was not pursued. Ms. Ott recently viewed a monument that included a stained glass window with the image of an eternal flame inserted in a hole cut in the monument. Staff met with Franklin Art Glass and Modlich and discussed design details. If there is interest on the Committee's part, staff will pursue this design.

Mr. Reiner asked if the window could accommodate a candle during ceremonies. Ms. Otto responded that it a possibility.

Mr. Hahn responded that the stained glass image itself would be of an eternal flame design.

Mr. Keenan stated that perhaps a ledge in the back could accommodate a candle for backlighting of the stained glass.

Mr. Hahn responded that the granite would be relatively thick, and the stained glass would be of typical glass width, so there would be ledges on either side of the glass insert.

Mr. Reiner stated that it would be a matter of an appropriate design and execution in order to introduce stained glass with the granite.

Mr. Hahn noted that staff had hoped to have design options for the Committee to review, but they were not available. He is not certain if people will easily recognize the stained glass eternal flame image within the monument.

Mr. Keenan asked if this could be added on top of the monument, versus cutting a hole in the granite.

Mr. Hahn stated that the monument company assured staff that cutting the hole in the granite is not an issue and is not cost prohibitive.

Mr. Keenan noted that there may be need for a quotation under the stained glass to indicate it is an eternal flame and what it represents.

Mr. Hahn responded that if there is need to explain it, it may take away from the design.

Mr. Reiner stated that the key is in the design and execution. In addition, there may be maintenance issues for the stained glass.

Mr. Hahn responded that if the glass is used, it will simply be stained glass with no protective covering. Given the coldness of the granite and condensation, it would be problematic to have covering or protection over the glass.

Mr. Gerber stated that staff should further refine this and provide the information to the Committee for final review.

Mr. Reiner added that staff may want to consider other stained glass window designs such as military memorial wreaths or other.

Ms. Ott asked that if the Committee has other suggestions for concepts for this design, please let staff know. The artist could then work from those concepts.

Mr. Keenan noted that a kneeling soldier with guns and helmets on top are often used to represent fallen comrades.

Budget for Project

Mr. Hahn noted that staff reported to Council as a whole a budget range for the project of \$50,000-75,000. There is no reason to believe anything has changed. He pointed out that granite originates from many places in the world, and there are significant price differences. There is an \$8,500 plus premium for USA quarried, processed, and polished granite versus Chinese granite. Even with the premium cost for USA granite, the project remains within budget.

The Committee concurred with using USA granite at the premium cost.

Mr. Hahn summarized that staff will refine the concepts for the stained glass design; will proceed with the monument design within a plaza area with a simple boxwood border on the edges; and will include a new flagpole of traditional design, with lighting and an outlet to accommodate sound systems for a ceremony. Staff believes that the monument can be completed for Memorial Day 2013. Given the fact there is some interest in the stained glass component, staff will pursue those concepts and return to the Committee for further input. Staff will also bring forward for Committee review some concepts for the wing wall inscriptions/quotations.

Mr. Gerber noted that he will provide a status report to Council at the next meeting, indicating that the final designs will be ready at a later date.

Mr. Hahn responded that using the US granite will help in terms of a shorter lead time, helping to achieve the timeframe for completion.

Mr. Reiner stated that, given his business, he spent Christmas Eve in cemeteries around the area and they all include columbariums. Is there space in the Dublin cemetery to have some masonry walls faced with granite?

Mr. Keenan noted that is an excellent idea.

Mr. Hahn stated that he will report to Council about the status of the existing cemetery early this year. There is space available for this. Columbariums are becoming more prevalent, as cremation becomes more common.

Mr. Keenan noted that Dublin resident Jim Finn died recently, but there was not an option available for burial in the Dublin cemetery at this time. Having a columbarium would open up some additional capacity for the community for the future and would not be invasive.

Mr. Hahn agreed.

Ms. Ott added that there is a lovely columbarium at Union Cemetery.

Mr. Hahn stated that whatever is built today can be expanded in the future as well.

Mr. Reiner noted that the City is in need of in house landscape architects who could design these kinds of items.

Avery Park Soccer Field Dedication

Mr. Gerber asked whether there is any update on the status of the dedication signage for Captain Rozanski at the Avery Park soccer fields.

Mr. Hahn responded that he plans to take a couple of design options that staff believes are appropriate to Mr. Strip for review. Staff does not have these design options available at this time.

Mr. Gerber affirmed that his motion, as approved by Council, was that the dedication signage would be subject to staff approval.

Mr. Hahn stated that he will provide information to Mr. Strip the options and the associated costs.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.